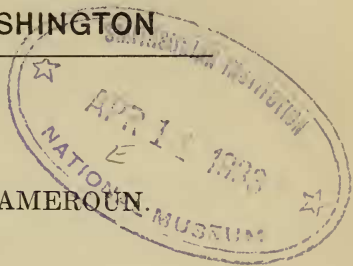


PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

A NEW WEAVER-BIRD FROM CAMEROUN.

BY W. E. CLYDE TODD.



The Dark-backed Weaver-bird of Cameroun has heretofore been referred to the *Symplectes tephronotus* of Reichenow (Journal für Ornithologie, 1892, 184), described from Buea, on the slopes of Mount Cameroun. The receipt of a topotype from this very locality shows that the latter is a mountain form, and not the same as the birds from lowland localities. These may therefore be designated

Symplectes amaurocephalus analogus, subsp. nov.

Type, No. 101,457, Collection Carnegie Museum, adult male; Jele, Cameroun, West Africa, September 21, 1924; Jacob A. Reis, Jr.

Subspecific characters.—Similar to *Symplectes amaurocephalus amaurocephalus* (Cabanis) of Angola and the region to the eastward thereof, but upper parts and wings slightly darker, duller gray; throat more blackish, less grayish; and under parts deeper, more orange yellow (nearest light cadmium of Ridgway's "Color Standards"). Size about the same: wing, 90; tail, 56.

Range.—Lowlands of Cameroun.

Remarks.—Eleven specimens of the new form from several localities (Efulen, Ngobilo, Jele, Sakbayeme, and Bodpo) in Cameroun have been examined in this connection. They agree among themselves, and differ from the topotype of *tephronotus*, in larger size, and in having the head brown (instead of black) and the upper parts, wings, etc., decidedly brownish (instead of grayish). The iris is marked "Brazil red," instead of "clove brown," as in *tephronotus*.

Cabanis' figure of *Sycobrotus amaurocephalus* (Journal für Ornithologie, 1880, pl. 21, fig. 1) represents a bird with the under parts much paler yellow than our Cameroun series. With this plate our single Angola specimen (No. 108,674, Chingoroi, R. and L. Boulton) agrees well, so that there can no longer be any doubt of the propriety of giving the Cameroun birds a distinctive name. Thanks to Dr. James P. Chapin of the American Museum of Natural History I have been able to compare the new form as

well with *S. bicolor* and *S. mentalis*, with which it clearly has nothing to do. I would call *bicolor*, *mentalis*, *stictifrons*, and *amaurocephalus* all species, and probably *tephronotus* also, as already intimated. The present form, however, is so closely related to *amaurocephalus* that it ought to stand in a conspecific relation thereto, even although their respective ranges are not yet known to approximate each other.